

VZCZCXYZ0009
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHEG #3399 3381542
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 041542Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7628
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS CAIRO 003399

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: NOTE VERBALE FROM FM ABOUL GHEIT TO SECRETARY RICE
ON FMF

Sensitive but unclassified. Not for internet distribution.

(SBU) On December 3, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit delivered to the Ambassador a note verbale, dated December 1, for Secretary Rice concerning the House of Representatives proposal to condition USD 200 million in FMF for FY2008. The full text of the note follows:

Begin text:

I would like to seek your good offices to address the Congress once again regarding the unhelpful stipulation in the House of Representatives' version of the State Department and Foreign Appropriations Bill 2008 to withhold 200 million dollars from the Foreign Military Finances (FMF) earmarked to Egypt.

I have been personally following the contacts of our Embassy in Washington with the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. I have come to the opinion that a high level intervention by yourself is now timely and much needed to give the final push towards lifting such stipulations from the final version of the bill coming out of the conference. I am confident as to your sincerity and eloquence in transmitting the message, as you did before in your joint letter with Secretary of Defense and again in your testimony before the House Foreign Relations Committee, that such conditionality can not be but detrimental to the long-term relations between our two countries.

It is to the benefit of these mutual bilateral interests, and for fear of an inevitable negative public reaction to the adoption of language that would be widely considered in Egypt as interventionist on the part of the United States, that I seek your help on this matter. I look forward to your role as I know you are a strong supporter of healthy and solid Egyptian-American relations.

End text.
RICCIARDONE